

RADIO TV REPORTS, II

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PROGRAM Senator Goldwater Commentary STATION WRC Radio
DATE September 17, 1981 7:24 AM CITY Washington, DC
SUBJECT The Leaking of Government Information

KEN ALVORD: Well, should federal employees who leak so-called sensitive information, even though it isn't classified and the employee hasn't signed a secrecy oath, be prosecuted by the government for those leaks.

Senator, what do you think? Should they, or should we draw the line here?

SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER: Well, I don't think we should draw a line. When anybody, whether it's a federal employee or plain John Citizen, releases information of value to the enemy, whether it's classified or not, that individual should be persecuted [sic]. We've had some rules on the book since the President Carter days that have pretty well tied the hands of the Federal Government relative to these people who have stepped outside the intelligence agencies, the FBI, etc., have written books disclosing name, ranks and serial numbers of their co-workers. This has resulted in several deaths. Because these people have mostly worked in covert operations, and the governments against whom they've been working are most anxious to do something about them, something like seeing that they don't live another day.

Now, we have -- not we, but Senator Chafee of the Intelligence Committee has a very, very good bill before the Judiciary Committee, that I believe is being written up today or tomorrow, that will go a long ways towards putting an end to this.

ALVORD: What would that basically do, Senator?

SENATOR GOLDWATER: Well, it would basically take away the rule that the President -- that the Attorney General took